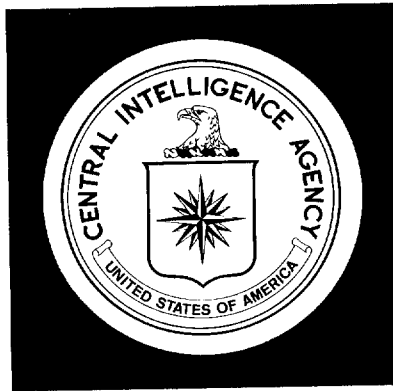


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# Weekly Summary

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May 14, 1976

The WEEKLY SUMMARY, issued every Friday morning by the Office of Current Intelligence, reports and analyzes significant developments of the week through noon on Thursday. It frequently includes material coordinated with or prepared by the Office of Economic Research, the Office of Strategic Research, the Office of Geographic and Cartographic Research, and the Directorate of Science and Technology.

### Warning Notice

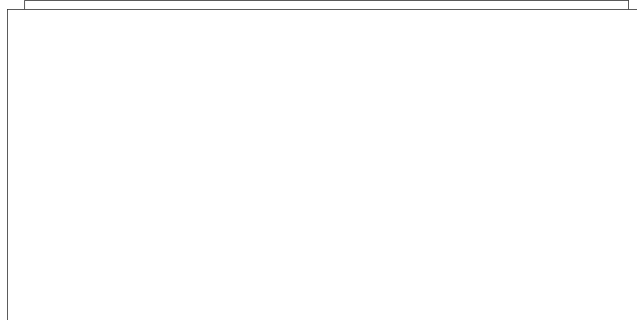
Sensitive Intelligence Sources and Methods Involved  
(WNINTEL)

### NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions



8 Western Hemisphere  
Argentina



Comments and queries on the contents of this publication are welcome. They may be directed to the editor of the Weekly Summary.

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**ARGENTINA** 47-48

The trust and confidence engendered by the military junta's politically neutral, businesslike approach to governing are beginning to give way to concern over arbitrary security practices and over President Videla's seemingly unsteady grasp on his authority.

Members of major unions and political parties have expressed fear about the implications of recent widespread arrests and take-overs of unions the government had pledged not to touch. Their impression that local military commanders are operating without—or perhaps despite—central direction is shared by

journalists. Indications are that the three services are working at cross purposes. The navy, for example, has failed to honor Videla's request for a comprehensive list of prisoners it is holding. Videla has reportedly encountered opposition from navy chief Admiral Massera, a fellow junta member.

Videla has been preoccupied with creating the impression of evenhandedness toward business and labor. To soften the impact of the junta's pro-business economic policy, Videla decreed across-the-board wage hikes and arrested a number of businessmen accused of price gouging. He evidently sees his immediate prime task as convincing the country of the junta's good faith, so

that the way will be cleared for implementing its broad range of policies.

Meanwhile, however, Videla's low-key style and lack of aggressiveness have contributed to independent behavior by local commanders and to interservice competition. Proponents of harsher security measures take the President's mild manner as an invitation to do things their own way. At some point soon, Videla will be obliged to assert his authority by reining in officers operating counter to his wishes. His failure to do so would cost the junta the favorable image it has managed to create abroad as well as the popular support that gives the government leverage against the terrorists and other domestic problems.

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